

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments above and the remarks below. Claims 6, 26, and 38 have been amended, and claims 6-10 and 26-40 remain pending in the application. Claims 6, 26, and 38 are independent.

Applicants note that claim 32 does not appear to be addressed by the Office Action, despite being listed as rejected on the Office Action Summary sheet. Clarification of the status of this claim is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesies extended to their undersigned representative by Examiner Wu during an in-person interview on October 15, 2003. Applicants note that a Reexamination Interview Summary Form was inadvertently used by the Examiner to record the substance of the interview. During the interview, the claims and the references of record were discussed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 6-10, 26-28, and 35-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,184,319 to Kramer (hereinafter "*Kramer*"). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been rendered moot by the foregoing amendments to independent claims 6, 26, and 38.

Each of the independent claims has been amended to include features that the Examiner has suggested would make the claims allowable. Although Applicants have made the foregoing amendments as a matter of administrative convenience, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's characterization of the claims or *Kramer*. Accordingly, Applicants do not make any disclaimer by way of the foregoing amendments.

Claim 6, as amended, recites an "intermediate portion of the deformable member configured to provide a haptic sensation to an underside of a hand." Claims 26 and 38, as amended, each recite "a contact surface" that is "configured to provide a haptic sensation to an underside of a hand."

Kramer does not disclose a deformable member with an intermediate portion configured to provide a haptic sensation to an underside of a hand, as recited in claim 6. *Kramer* also does not disclose a contact surface configured to provide a haptic sensation to an underside of a hand, as recited in claims 26 and 38.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 6, 26, and 38. Additionally, based at least on their dependence from claims 6, 26, or 38, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-10, 27, 28, 35-37, 39, and 40.

Applicant notes that, although only the independent claims have been addressed above, several of the dependent claims also present features not found in the references of record, which may present independent grounds of patentability.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 29-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kramer* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,354,162 to Burdea et al. (hereinafter "*Burdea*"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Because claims 29-31 depend from claim 26, the combination of *Kramer* and *Burdea* also fails to disclose each element of these claims. Thus, claims 29-31 are patentable based on their dependence from claim 26.

Applicants note that, while this rejection purports to address claims 29-31, only the piston feature recited in claim 29 is addressed. Neither the threaded rod element of claim 30, nor the cam element of claim 31 has been addressed in the Office Action.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 29-31 for at least the reasons set forth above.

Conclusion

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance, which is believed to be in order. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication, or the application in general, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at 703-456-8108.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

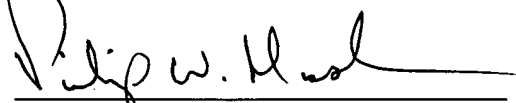
Dated: October 21, 2003

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